



Animals of the West

*Preschool Activity
Guide*



Any questions or comments on this Teacher Activity Guide are welcome. Contact the Director of Education at:

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
11 North Fourth Street
St. Louis, MO 63102
(314) 655-1600

Produced by the Division of Museum Services and Interpretation,
revised 2004.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	To The Teacher	4
	Pre-Visit Activity #1: Let's Find Out	5
	Pre-Visit Activity #2: Stories	6
	Pre-Visit Activity #3: Park Rangers	7
	Museum Experience: Animals of the West (REQUIRED) ..	8
	Post-Visit Activity #1: Puzzles (suggested)	9
	Post-Visit Activity #2: Songs (suggested)	10
	Post-Visit Activity #3: Parks	11
	Appendix	12
	Additional Resources	13



TO THE TEACHER

USING THIS GUIDE

The activities in this guide were designed to enhance preschool studies of animals of the west. They can be done in groups or with individuals. Use the pre-visit activities as an introduction. Make copies of the pictures on pages 5, 7, and 12 for the student activities. Conclude with the post-visit materials, including an Internet tour of some of America's most scenic National Parks.

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The activities in this guide extend beyond social studies to all areas of the curriculum. Use these symbols to identify the learning area of each activity.



art



decision making



language arts



math



music



role-playing



science & technology

CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES

The following National Standards and tested objectives for the states of Missouri and Illinois are addressed in this program and the activities in this guide:

- Apply skills of historical analysis and interpretation. (ILS 16.A; NSH 3D; MAP 1.9)
- Comprehend the content of oral and visual presentations. (NSH 2G; MAP 1.5)
- Work with others and participate in discussions. (ILS 4.B & 2I; MAP 2.5 & 4.6)
- Perform or produce works in the fine or practical arts. (ILS 26.B; MAP 2.5)
- Locate and organize information using technology and other resources. (ILS 5; MAP 1.4)

ILS: Illinois Learning Standards

CA: Communication Arts

MAP: Missouri Assessment Program

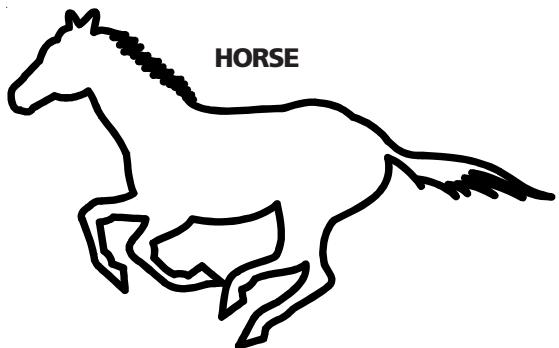
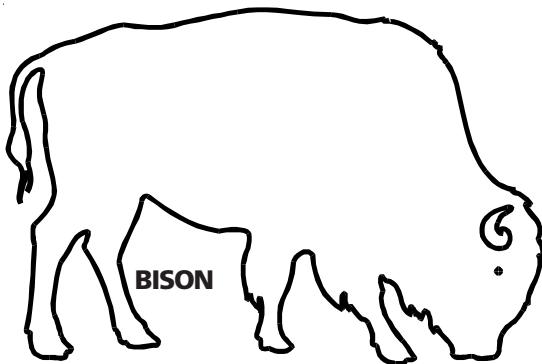
NCSS: National Council for Social Studies

NSH: National Standards for History



LET'S FIND OUT (PRE-VISIT)

These two animals were important to people in the American West.



HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

- Color the animal pictures.
- What is your favorite animal?*
- Find out about this animal!

Where does it live? How does it move?

What does it eat? Why do you like this animal?

- Act like your favorite animal.
Make its sounds and walk like it.



STORIES (PRE-VISIT)

Read the story about Kit Carson's exciting adventure with some wild animals in the West.

Once upon a time there was a man named Kit Carson. He was a mountain man who lived in the West. His job was to catch beavers to get their fur.

One day when he was hunting, two grizzly bears started chasing him. Kit was very afraid. To escape, he climbed up a tree. The bears shook the tree, but he held on tight. He stayed there for a long time until the bears left. Finally, Kit was safe. He was very lucky that day.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO:



*What animals does the story mention?
What happens to Kit?*



Act out the action of the story in groups.



Make up your own animal story.
Have an adult write it down to make a class book.
Share the stories in the book with the whole class.



PARK RANGERS (PRE-VISIT)

When you visit the Museum of Westward Expansion, you will see many animals and people. A special person you will meet is a park ranger. A park ranger is like your teacher. They will help you learn about the animals in the Museum. They will also help protect you and keep you safe. If you get lost, look for a park ranger. Park rangers wear a uniform with a gold badge and a brown patch. On the badge and the patch is a special animal.



HERE'S WHAT TO DO:



-  *What animal is on the patch?* (Look at the patch and badge on page 12 in the Appendix.)
-  Color the badge yellow and the patch brown.
-  Write your name on the badge or patch to wear as a nametag when you come to the Museum.
-  Pretend you are at the museum. Act like park rangers and visitors. Practice asking rangers for help.



ANIMALS OF THE WEST

MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

ARRIVAL

Upon arrival, register your group at the information desk, review Museum Manners with your students, and proceed to the entrance of the Museum of Westward Expansion. There, you will meet the park ranger assigned to your program. Don't forget to wear your park ranger name tags!

PROGRAM ACTIVITY

In this program, students will explore the Museum of Westward Expansion and meet some of the animals which were important in the settlement of the American West. Students will participate in a cooperative, "heads or tails" animal game. Museum exhibits, pictures, and a variety of multisensory, hands-on objects will be utilized to create an exciting learning experience.

VOCABULARY □□

Students should be familiar with the names of animals they will see in the museum.

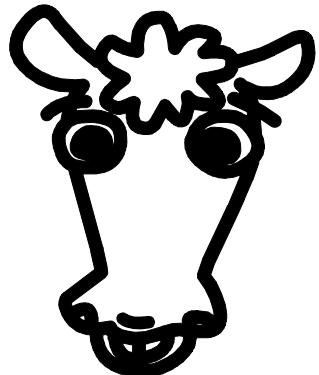
bear - a large wild animal with shaggy fur and a very short tail.

beaver - an animal with a flat tail that can cut down trees with its teeth. It lives on land and swims in the water.

bison - a wild animal with a shaggy mane and curved horns. This is another name for the American buffalo.

horse - a four-legged animal with hooves and a flowing mane and tail.

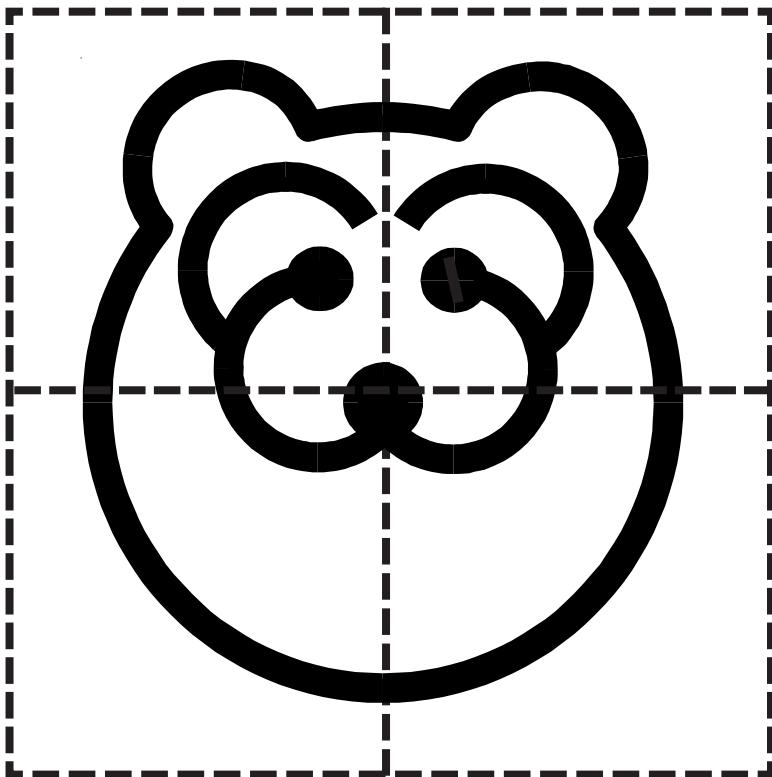
longhorn steer - a cow with very long horns.





PUZZLES (POST-VISIT)

Just like people, animals are special in many ways.



HERE'S WHAT TO DO:



What makes this animal special?



Color and cut apart the pieces to make a puzzle.



*Choose a name for this animal.
Why did you choose this name?*



SONGS (POST-VISIT)

Together as a class, sing about the animals you saw on your visit. Sing to the tune of *Old MacDonald Had a Farm*.

In the West

In the West there were lots of animals.
And in the West there was a bear.
With a growl, growl here and a growl, growl there.
*Here a growl, there a growl,
Everywhere a growl, growl.*
In the West there were lots of animals.

EIEIO
EIEIO
EIEIO

HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

- ♪ Sing about these animals and others.
bear buffalo horse
beaver longhorn steer
- ♫ Make up signals or silly sounds for animals which don't have a well-known sound.
- ✂ Make stick puppets of the animals to use during the song.





PARKS (POST-VISIT)

Did you know that when you visited the Arch you were visiting a National Park? National Parks are special places. The Arch is part of a National Park called the *Jefferson National Expansion Memorial*.



HERE'S WHAT TO DO:



Visit some National Parks on the Internet at www.nps.gov. View pictures of these parks on their home web pages.



What types of animals live in these places?

Cape Hatteras National Seashore



Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

Everglades National Park

NOW TRY THIS: Visit a park to look for animals.



What kinds of animals do you think you will find?



Count the animals you see there.



Draw pictures of these animals.



APPENDIX



RANGER BADGE



RANGER PATCH



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

To learn more, try these books:

Goble, Paul. *Gift of the Sacred Dog*. New York, New York: MacMillan Publishing, 1980.

Hoofnagle, Keith. *Park Ranger! A Book to Color*. Yellowstone, Wyoming: The Yellowstone Association and the National Park Service, 1971.

INTERNET

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial

www.nps.gov/jeff

National Park Service

www.nps.gov





**Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
11 North 4th Street
St. Louis, MO 63102**



Visit the Gateway Arch, Museum of Westward Expansion and
Old Courthouse on the Internet: www.nps.gov/jeff
Visit the National Park Service at:

www.nps.gov